

VERY CURIOUS FREAK BROUGHT BY A SHELL

German Bombshell Really Performs Very Useful Piece of Military Engineering.

VERDUN, France, Sept. 30.—While the shelling of Verdun has done a tremendous amount of damage, yet there is one remarkable incident in which a German bombshell has actually performed a very useful piece of military engineering.

General Dubois, commander of the city, pointed out to the Associated Press this curious freak wrought by a German shell.

"I calculate," said the general, "that one shell has done for me the hard work of fifty men working steadily for eight days."

The net result of the shell's work was to tear a hole through the rear fortifications, and thus opening the way for a tunnel which was much needed. Besides that, the same shell knocked down two large trees at the end of the tunnel, which fell across the river in such a way that they formed the foundation of a bridge.

After the smoke had cleared away and the wreckage had been inspected, General Dubois concluded that the path of the shell would be turned to useful account. The jagged hole through the fortifications was properly cleared up and cemented, and now it represents the appearance of rather a good-looking archway. The trees, lying across the river, were properly anchored at either end, and a solid upper structure with ornamental side railings, was constructed. Then a narrow-gauge railway was run from the city through this shell hole, and over this bridge lying on the blown-down trees, so that a direct railway connection was established between the city and the rear.

This railway performs a very useful service, and the whole thing is the outgrowth of the big German shell which fell just back of the citadel.

Going along the streets of Verdun, one sees at every hand signs of the terror which spread over the poor villagers when the bombardment drove them away. The Rue St. Pierre and the Rue Belle Vierge showed long lines of small shops and middle-class houses which had been so hastily deserted that many of the belongings had been left behind. A barber shop had been left with a lot of the perfumery bottles still standing in front of the empty chairs. A carpenter shop showed the usual litter of shavings and long benches, as though the men had just gone off work. Mattresses and pieces of blanket were lying around in a house which had its front torn out by a shell, and nearby were pairs, tubs, and a demolished baby carriage. An upper story, where a shell had torn off the front, showed an artist's atelier, with a easel standing against the wall and the place daubed with paint. Hardly a house or shop was without some evidence of the domestic tragedy that had been caused.

A rather well-known series of paintings of the dancing girls, which have hung for a long time in the military club at Verdun, has escaped the ravages of the bombardment, although everything along the walls has been a mass of ruins. The club had been left with a lot of the perfumery bottles still standing in front of the empty chairs. A carpenter shop showed the usual litter of shavings and long benches, as though the men had just gone off work. Mattresses and pieces of blanket were lying around in a house which had its front torn out by a shell, and nearby were pairs, tubs, and a demolished baby carriage. An upper story, where a shell had torn off the front, showed an artist's atelier, with a easel standing against the wall and the place daubed with paint. Hardly a house or shop was without some evidence of the domestic tragedy that had been caused.

At the entrance to the citadel of Verdun, there are two old-fashioned cannon captured by the French in the struggles of former days. One of the staff officers, accompanying the Associated Press correspondent on the rounds of the city, pointed out these cannon and said:

"Those remind me of two curious cannon shown me at the United States military academy at West Point, when I was making an official visit there. The cannon bore marks showing that they had been cast in France, but as France and the United States had never had a war I was curious to know how they had come into the possession of the United States. It seems that when France was at war with Spain, the cannon were taken by the Spaniards. Then when Mexico was under the Spanish influence, Spain turned over these French cannon to Mexico. Then when the United States had a war with Mexico, your American army captured the French cannon. So they have made the rounds of four governments and are now in the hands of the United States."

This officer was one of the Franco-American exchange lecturers, some years ago and delivered conferences at Yale and Harvard, and in Boston, New York, Chicago and many other cities out to the Pacific coast.

From a military standpoint Verdun has come through the ordeal much better than was expected. While the poor inhabitants have suffered greatly in the loss of homes and belongings, yet the military people point out that everything contributing to the military defense of the town is about as good as ever. The citadel in the center of the town, where the last stand was to be made, is untouched except for shell holes in the heavy masonry walls. These are big enough to smash an ordinary dwelling to pieces, but on these massive walls, twenty feet thick, they are only pinpricks which can be repaired.

The bridges, also, have all escaped damage, and bridges from the military standpoint are very important for the ready transfer of troops, supplies and refugees from one side of the Meuse to the other. The main bridge, linking the principal business street, is flanked along the river by stores and houses torn to pieces by shells and tumbling into the river. But the bridge itself does not show a scratch. And so it is with all the other bridges. It is the same with the "routes," as the military men called them—a general term covering highways lead-

ing into the town, railway terminals, tunnels, etc. In the town itself and the nearby suburbs, these "routes" are as good as ever, though further back in the part overrun by the Germans they have doubtless suffered a good deal.

"But on the whole," said one of the officers, "we feel that after six months' bombardment Verdun has really suffered very little in a military sense, so that the tremendous effort made by Germany has been to them a complete military failure."

The bronze statue of Chevert, marshal of France, has come through untouched, while all around it is a wilderness of ruin. The old general, in seventeenth century costume, still brandishes his sword as he shouts "en avant!" in the attack on Prague. Verdun has always been very proud of its marshal, who was born here in 1695, and became a marshal under Louis XV.

A visit to one of the fortresses in the inner circle of Verdun defenses showed practically a duplicate of Forts Douaumont and Vaux, now complete wrecks, after being captured by the Germans. It has the same massive outer walls, twenty feet thick and the heights of a three-story row of houses. Within this wall is a wide moat, and then a second circle of heavy walls, with small loop-hole windows half way up. Pointing to these loop-hole windows, an officer said:

"We had an exciting experience with these windows at Fort Vaux when the German assault was made. The Germans got to the top wall, but our men were at the windows below. Then the Germans, in order to reach our men, lowered explosive bombs in baskets attached to ropes. As the bombs hung outside our windows, they exploded by a time fuse."

"This was becoming very deadly when one of our crack riflemen came on the scene, and taking his rifle he shot to pieces the baskets, and the bombs crash to the foot of the wall."

"For six days this work went on, but never again did a bomb explode near our windows, as our sharpshooters unfailingly cut the ropes as fast as the baskets were lowered."

Twenty-four of Twenty-five Congressional Candidates Sure to Win.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Sept. 30.—Illinois Republicans expect to make practically a clean sweep of the twenty-five Illinois congressional districts in November. They are positive that the two nominees for congressmen, at large, Medill McCormick and William E. Mason, will be elected with the rest of the state ticket with a lead over the Democrats of from 150,000 to 200,000.

Never were the prospects better, it is claimed by Republican experts, for a clean-up of the downstate congressional districts, no exception even the landslide of 1904, when every Republican nominee for Congress in the state was elected. The chances in Chicago are asserted to be satisfactory.

Clean Sweep Downstate.

It is conceded that Congressman Copley, Fuller, McKenzie, Sterling, McKinley, Cannon, Rodenburg, Williams and Dennison will be elected without difficulty. Many of them have no opposition. Congressman Wheeler in the Springfield district, which is normally Democratic, has a hard opponent in Thomas Rees of Springfield, and the district is classed as fighting ground.

In the Monmouth district William J. Graham, the Republican nominee seems certain to defeat Clyde Tavernier, Democrat. Clifford Ireland, who defeated Joseph V. Graff for the Republican nomination in the Peoria district, is picked as winner over Congressman Stone. Harry Ferriman has better than an even chance to defeat Martin D. Foster in the old time Democratic district that centers around Vandalia.

The only Democratic congressman that looks like he had a sure thing is Ramey of Carrollton, and nobody has had the nerve to run against him.

G. O. P. Strong in Chicago.

The Chicago districts are in excellent condition from a Republican viewpoint, the Republican managers say. Congressmen Madden, Mann, Wilson, Britten and Foss are considered impregnable in their districts. The Republicans have a chance in the stockyards district, where Congressman Mellemont was defeated for re-election. Congressman Sabbath is likely to be re-elected due to the desire of the Democrats to elect their county ticket.

The Sixth district contest will be a sizzler between Congressman James McAndrews, the Democratic incumbent, and Arthur W. Fulton. Nells Junl is picked to defeat Congressman Frank Buchanan on the northwest side.

The situation in the Eighth district, now represented by Congressman Thomas Gallagher, is hazy. N. L. Piotrowski, who was a defeated primary contender against Gallagher, may run independently, it is reported.

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LEWIS COUNTY NOW HAS SOME FINE HIGHWAYS

Weston Items are Recorded for Telegram by a Hustling Correspondent.

WESTON, Sept. 30.—The road out Stone Coal has been completed and it is a fine piece of work. The public is now able to get over the new road. The road above town will also soon be completed and then a rush will be made on the longest piece leading out the Glenville way. They are getting out of the mud slowly here.

Attending Conference.

The Rev. John Bedlow, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, is attending the annual conference at Wheeling. A unanimous call has been extended for his return another year. Dr. George I. Keener is also attending as a lay delegate.

Richards Convalescent.

S. L. Richards, the well known lumber man, who was operated on at the St. Mary's hospital several days ago, was able to be brought to his home here on Main avenue Friday. He is getting along nicely.

Lets Contract.

Mrs. Charles O'Hara has let a contract to J. R. Moore, the well known contractor, for the erection of a stucco residence on her lot at the lower end of Main avenue. These kind of residences are getting very numerous around here and they are beautiful.

Go to Bridgeport.

Quite a number of people have been journeying to Bridgeport, O., in the past few weeks. A great doctor has been discovered there who cures almost any ailment. Some of the people who he has helped wonderfully are Mrs. Tarle Reger, Mrs. Lucy Hitt, and Will Stalnaker, engineer. Clark White, accompanied by Mrs. White and son, George, left Thursday in a car for that city, and R. Ad Hall and Lee Troxell went by train on the same day.

To Conduct Mission.

The Rev. Father J. J. Swint left Friday for Cincinnati, O., where he will help conduct a two weeks' mission.

Home Welding.

Edward Malone, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Malone, of Shadybrook, and Miss Choleen Jarvis, of Rush Run, were married Wednesday at the home of Mrs. W. M. Morgan, Miss Jarvis's sister. The Rev. Mr. Brooks, of the Presbyterian church performed the ceremony. They left Thursday for a honeymoon trip to eastern cities. Mr. Malone is a valued employee in the Baltimore and Ohio shops.

To Remodel Property.

J. R. Moore has a contract for remodeling the McClelland property on the corner of First and Center street.

Company Moves Quarters.

The Acme Lumber Company are moving from the Fisher building into their new quarters in the Tierney building, formerly occupied by the late Dr. Johnson.

Quits the Road.

E. V. Higginbottom, the well known traveling salesman, has decided to quit the road and has accepted a position with the Danzer Manufacturing Company.

Accepts Position.

Miss Sallie Smith has accepted a position in the W. C. Allman department store.

That's Not the Reason.

Lloyd Rinehart, Democratic candidate for state treasurer, has returned from a two weeks' trip over the state. He will never get the job. Count the letters in his name.

To Move Family.

M. L. Hunt, who has been in Akron, Ohio, for some time came home this week and is preparing to move his family there.

SERUM

Plants Are to Be Established in Efforts to Eradicate Cat-tle Scourge.

MANILA, P. I., Sept. 30.—A plan to establish ten government plants for the manufacture of rinderpest serum, has been initiated by Adriano Hernandez, director of the bureau of agriculture. Funds have been secured and the plants will soon be in full operation.

Rinderpest continues to be a serious problem for Philippine cattle owners, but the bureau of agriculture by quarantine and immunization is waging a vigorous campaign against the scourge. A requisition for serum has been sent to French Indo-China and this will enable the bureau to keep up its work until all ten serum manufacturing plants are in full swing. These plants are to be located in cattle centers in different parts of the islands.

Estimates made by the department of agriculture put the 1916 beet sugar acreage at 769,500 acres. This is 104,200 more than in 1915 and 254,000 more than in 1914.

Kentucky last year registered 63,578 births and 28,913 deaths.

Oratory That Won a Nation

The Remarkable Speeches Made by Henry Ward Beecher in England During the Civil War.

(Kansas City Star.)

Now that the stage is being set in the various arenas of political activity for the quadrennial presidential oratorical contest, the mind naturally reverts to the great forensic feats of other days and to the "kings" that were before Agamemnon. If needed there should emerge an Agamemnon of the hustings in the present campaign.

With Hughes on one side and Wilson on the other, both men of the scholarly, unemotional, clear, cold type of language polisher, it looks as though it will be a battle of rhetoric, a matching of phrases and epigrams, a sort of syllogistic game of professional nature, whereas there will be no frenzied flinging of hats or wild outbursts or irrepressible enthusiasm, as in the first Bryan campaign, for instance, or in the days when Roosevelt thumped his right fist into his left palm and thundered his philippics against both the muckrakers and the malefactors of great wealth.

Time, place and circumstances must combine, said Webster, to make a propitious setting for great oratorical achievements and the beneficent conjunction of all these essentials comes only at rare intervals in political history.

Probably the most marvelous demonstration of the power of the really great orator over the minds of adverse masses and the greatest in point of the memorable speaking tour made by Henry Ward Beecher, in Great Britain, in 1862, in defense of the cause of the American union, before a people whose sympathies were overwhelmingly with the South, and in the face of a governmental policy that showed every evidence of having as its apparent object the dismemberment of the American union and the recognition of the southern confederacy.

Beginning at Manchester, October 9, 1862, Mr. Beecher delivered five great speeches in the larger cities of Great Britain—Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool and London—each speech being devoted to some special train of thought and argument bearing upon the issues involved in the cataclysmic conflict of arms then raging in the United States. This series of speeches, it is admitted by many historians of the Civil war, did more for the union cause, in the way of arresting and diverting the trend of sentiment and in checking the governmental influences, than all that had been therefore said or written.

The conditions of time, place and theme were ideally epochal to keep the mind of the great pulpiteer up to the very summits of oratorical fervor, and he met the situation with the poise, the spirit and the power of a master of his art. Beecher's speeches were not polished orations—the people he was addressing were in no humor for academic stuff. Passions were highly wrought, prejudice was rampant, the audiences he faced were at first hostile in tone, British style, even before he had opened his mouth to speak to them.

Match for the Mob.

In Glasgow, Edinburgh and Liverpool he waged such a battle with vast and tumultuous throngs assembled to gag and stifle his efforts as, perhaps, no other public speaker of that time could have fought, in a strange, and unfriendly land, and not been utterly vanquished. But Beecher was a match for the mob. It was give and take with him from the start; and, abandoning the serene and lofty style of the pulpit, he went at the great business in hand like a trained and seasoned stump speaker. Amidst the most violent attempts to drown his voice and shut his lips he invariably remained master of the platform, and in the end won the confidence and the support of the vast audiences that assembled to hear him. Beecher was fearless in the expression of his views. As he said himself:

"I am born without moral fear. I have expressed my views in any audience and it never cost me a struggle. I never could help doing it."

His pluck and good humor captured his crowds.

A fair idea of the manner in which he handled his turbulent audiences and his familiar off-hand method of getting the ear of the crowd and driving home his arguments may be gathered from the shorthand reports of his Liverpool and London speeches. At St. George's hall, Liverpool, he struggled for nearly three hours against a storm of insults, taunts, irony, stampings, howlings, yellings and every form of disorder designed to discomfort, and not only kept his head, but in the end changed the meeting into one of cheers and good humor, and turned the tide of sentiment.

Beecher Answers.

Some one shouted, "Why not let the South go?" In the middle of his speech, with upraised hands, Beecher answered:

"You say, 'Why not let the South go?' (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Since they won't be at peace with you, why do you not let them separate from you? Because they would be less peaceably separated than they are together. (Hear, hear, and ironic laughter.) Oh, if the South only would go! (Laughter.) They are determined to stay—that is the trouble. (Hear, hear.) We would furnish free passage to every mother's son of them, if they would go. (Laughter.) But we say, 'That territory is ours.' (Cheers and hisses.) Let them go and leave the nation its territory, and they will have our unanimous consent. But I do not wish to discuss this even in this ad captivum way. I wish—because this seems to me to be the very marrow of the matter—I wish to ask you to stand in our place for a little time and see it, then afterward make up your judgment as you think best. (Hear, hear.) This war began by the act of the South—firing at the old flag that had covered both sections with glory and protection for so many years. (Applause and cheers.) Some gentlemen on the platform here offered Mr. Beecher a glass of water."

"No, thank you," said Beecher, continuing, "I want neither water nor lozenges. (Laughter.) Time, patience and my own good lungs will make me heard. I expect to be hoarse—I am willing to be hoarse in this cause. I think that if I might but bring the mother and daughter together, heart

to heart and hand to hand (loud applause), I would be willing to be silent for a twelvemonth in so good a work as that. (Cheers.) The war began under circumstances that obliged the North to join issue in order to prevent actual humiliation and subjugation. And for the North to have lain down like a spaniel—to have given up the territory that every child in America is taught, as every child in Britain is taught, to regard as his sacred right and his trust—to have given that territory up without a thought, without a blow would have marked the North to all eternity as craven and mean beyond expression. (Loud cheers and some hisses.)

Handles Pacifists.

Here are no rolling periods, no attempts at cloud scaling oratorical flights, the logic even of his appeal will not bear too close an inspection. But it is the speech of a sympathetic and magnetic leader of one who knew his audience, and who at all times kept calmly in view the object he was seeking to attain. It was an appeal in homely, rough-and-ready terms to the sporting instincts and the vaunted love of fair play of the average Briton—and it "got under their hides."

The British pacifists he handled in the same bold and easy manner.

"But I hear," said Mr. Beecher in another portion of his speech, "a loud protest against war. (Hear, hear.) Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Chairman—there is a small band in our country and in yours I wish their number were quadrupled who have borne a solemn and painful testimony against all wars, under all circumstances, and although I differ with them on the subject of defensive warfare, yet when men that rebuked their own land, and all lands, now rebuke us, though I cannot accept their judgment, I bow with profound respect to their consistency. (Hear, hear and cheers.) But excepting them, I regard this British horror of the American war as something wonderful. (Renewed cheers and laughter.) Why, it is a phenomenon in itself. On what shore has not the prow of your ships dashed? (Hear, hear.) What land is there with a name and a people where your banner has not led your soldiers? (Hear, hear, and loud cheering.) And when the great resurrection reveille shall sound it will muster British soldiers from every clime and people under the whole heavens. (Cheers.) Ah, but it is said this is a war against your own blood. (Hear, hear.) How long is it since you poured soldiers into Canada and let all your yards work day and night to advance the taking of two men out of the Trent? (Loud applause.) Old England shocked at a war of principle! She knined her glories in such a war. (Cheers.) Old England ashamed of a war of principle. Her national emblem symbolizes her history—the cross in a field of blood. (Cheers.) And will you tell us—who inherit your blood, your ideas and your pluck (cheers) that we must not fight?" (Loud cheers.)

Flight of Oratory.

But, aside from these skillful and adroit plays for the favor and good will of his audience, there were times when his exalted periods held his hearers fast with the music of his eloquence, and he seized such opportunities to arouse their sensibilities to the sublimity of the cause for which he was pleading.

"Standing by my cradle," he thundered forth at one time when he had got his hearers into a receptive mood, "standing by my hearth, standing by the altar of the church, standing by all the places that mark the name and memory of heroic men, who poured their blood and lives for principles, I declare that if it takes ten or twenty years of war, we will sacrifice everything we have for principle. If the love of popular liberty is dead in Great Britain, then you will not understand us. But if the love of liberty lives as it once lived, and has worthy successors of those renowned men that were our ancestors as much as yours, and whose example and principles we inherit to make fruitful as so much seed corn in a new and fer-

tile land, then you will understand our firm, invincible determination—deep as the sea, firm as the mountains, but calm as the heavens above us—to fight this war through at all hazards and at every cost."

The series of speeches delivered in the different British cities was designed to cover the whole round of points in American affairs which the British found it most difficult to understand. The last speech was made at Exeter hall, London, and by that time Beecher, with his good nature, fine tact, resolute and eloquent address, had so far won his way into the hearts of the people that the malcontents and opponents of his theme were reduced almost to silence and he was given in London a tremendous ovation. The hall was so crowded that he had to be carried to the platform literally upon the shoulders of policemen, while thousands outside thronged the streets in the neighborhood of the hall anxious to even catch a glimpse of the famous preacher.

Earnest Efforts.

"In the London address," says a historian of that period, "Mr. Beecher's most noble and earnest efforts were directed to promote, to the utmost of his ability, that supreme, international object of his oratorical tour—a better understanding between England and America, in which all the higher interests of civilization, freedom and progress were so directly involved. In discussing these great and vital questions he rose to a pitch of moral enthusiasm and elevation which—stranger as he was, in the midst of his country's reputed enemies, and standing, as he did, the solitary spokesman for that country, in the presence of a surging and excited multitude—presented a spectacle of moral and forensic sublimity rarely witnessed in any country."

SAYS HUBBY WOULD EAT ONLY WHEN SHE BOUGHT.

KANKAKEE, Ill., Sept. 30.—With property valued at \$25,000, but with no appetite except when his wife buys the food, at which times he eats "copiously," Ira Palmer, 83 years old, maintained that "an onion and a crack-cr" are enough for any one at a meal, according to the allegations made in a bill for separate maintenance by his wife, Dora. She says that for his comfort she trimmed his beard and cut his hair. Besides not buying food, his wife charges, he accused her of trying to poison him, and told all of the residents in the village of Essex, where they live, that after he is dead he wants a post mortem. He called her a second Belle Gunness, she maintains, on account of hunger. Mrs. Palmer says, she was forced to leave her husband on September 18.

A Detective.

"He said he was a plain clothes man. He was. His clothes would have been considered plain even at a hobo's convention. We were accused of flirting. Both were secretly pleased. Every man likes to be considered a devil of a fellow. Every woman likes to be thought alluring. It has been discovered that even the mature dames who are always being insulted at moving picture shows have powdered their noses and had their nails manicured in anticipation of the picture the newspapers will print of them the next day."

Is Emulating Britain's Example in the Matter of Black List.

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, Sept. 30. Germany is emulating Britain's example in the matter of the anathematized black list. The names have become public here of some half a dozen Dutch firms who have a place upon it. They are excluded from all export from Germany, neither may any material of German origin be supplied to them. Further there is a long list of firms who can only obtain German material when they give proof that this is to be used in the manufacture of goods destined solely for use in Holland or its colonies.

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